

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1163

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION designating April 20-26, 2008, as “Minority Cancer Awareness Week” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the week of April 20-26, 2008, is the observance of “National Minority Cancer Awareness Week”; and

WHEREAS, this observance is a nationwide opportunity to convey the message that the burden of cancer falls much heavier on some segments of the nation’s population than on others; many people, especially racial and ethnic minorities and the medically underserved, are dying because they do not know about cancer prevention and cannot afford or do not have access to cancer screening and treatment; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are making progress in the fight against cancer, but they continue to have the highest death and shortest survival rates of any racial or ethnic group for most cancers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society’s publication, Cancer Facts & Figures 2008, 18% of African Americans and 33% of Hispanics/Latinos are uninsured; from all cancer sites combined – including lung, colon, breast, prostate, and cervical cancers – uninsured patients are 1.6 times as likely to die in five years as those with private insurance; and

WHEREAS, contributing factors to these disparities include little or no health insurance, poverty, lack of access to health information and services, language barriers, and low literacy rates; efforts to overcome these factors and to close the cancer gap must involve the commitment of healthcare and medical communities and the general population to work together to that end; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society and its sister advocacy organization, ACS CAN are working to ensure that all Americans, including racial and ethnic minorities, have

access to quality cancer care, having funded 76 studies totaling over \$62 million devoted to the poor and medically underserved; and

WHEREAS, ACS CAN works at the federal and state levels to enact laws to help reduce cancer disparities and improve access to quality cancer prevention in partnership with the continuing work of the American Cancer Society to offer free programs and resources to help anyone facing cancer; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is committed to helping minority and medically underserved communities, survivors, and caregivers overcome these disparities not only during National Minority Cancer Awareness Week but throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we join with the American Cancer Society and other involved national and local groups to express our strong support for the initiatives to reduce and ultimately eliminate the disparities in the rate of cancer incidence between minority and medically underserved segments of our population and the rest of our citizenry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 20-26, 2008, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in Tennessee and urge all of the citizens of this State to take steps to heighten their understanding of cancer and cancer prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.